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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 4, 1981

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POL 13-11

TO: ARA - Tom Enders

FROM: ARA/CEN - Craig Johnstone

SUBJECT: Violence in El Salvador

Attached is an updated version of our violence graph. We have discussed with the Embassy the mothodology used in preparing its weekly violence summary which provides the figures used in the graph. The Embassy uses mainly press reports of deaths or incidents, Since an unknown proportion of actual deaths or incidents are reported in the press, the figures are very imprecise. The figures used are mainly of non-combatant casualties, but include some combatant casualties as well. This is because most combatant casualties do on appear in the press and cannot be confirmed, but some military deaths do appear in the papers in the form of obituaries. These deaths are included in the figures. Violent deaths not reported in the press are included only when they come to the attention of the Embassy from some other reliable source. Reliability of the information is the main criterion for inclusion. The Embassy is convinced that, while its figures are very imprecise, they do reflect fairly accurately trends in violence.

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VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR